

1 We claim:

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3       1. An improved plastic basket shopping cart comprising:

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5 a cart base frame having an upwardly extending rear frame section  
6       having handle means mounted thereon;

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8 at least three wheels rotatably mounted on said cart base frame;

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10 a plastic basket mounted on said cart base frame, said plastic  
11       basket including;

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13 a base wall, left and right side walls mounted on and extending  
14       upwards from said base wall and a front wall mounted on and  
15       extending upwards from said base wall and extending between  
16       and connecting forward portions of said left and right side  
17       walls;

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19 each of said left and right side walls and said front wall having  
20       a plurality of generally rectangular wall openings extending  
21       through said left and right side walls and said front wall,  
22       said wall openings generally having a height greater than  
23       their width;

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25 at least some of said wall openings on said left and right side  
26       walls and said front wall adjacent said base wall being  
27       generally square in shape with approximately equal heights and  
28       widths for improved structural strength;

1 each of said left and right side walls including generally cross-  
2 sectionally arcuate rear flange sections which extend outwards  
3 and rearwards therefrom, said rear flange sections each at  
4 least partially covering an adjacent portion of said rear  
5 frame section to substantially prevent items in said plastic  
6 basket from falling out of said plastic basket through a gap  
7 between said left and right side walls and said rear frame  
8 section; and

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10 a basket rim support wire extending circumferentially around and  
11 passing through upper portions of said left and right side  
12 walls and said front wall, the ends of said basket rim support  
13 wire connected to and mounted on said rear frame section  
14 adjacent an upper portion thereof for increasing the  
15 structural strength of said plastic basket on said rear frame  
16 section of said cart base frame.

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18       **2.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim **1**  
19 wherein said cart base frame further includes an upwardly extending  
20 center basket support strut which engages said base wall, said base  
21 wall further including a reinforced plate section operative to  
22 provide additional structural support for the connection of said  
23 center basket support strut thereto thus strengthening said  
24 improved plastic basket shopping cart.

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26       **3.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim **1**  
27 further comprising a rear wall mounted on said rear frame section  
28 of said cart base.

1       **4.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 1  
2 wherein said generally cross-sectionally arcuate rear flange  
3 sections have cross-sectional curvatures approximately equal to the  
4 curvature of said adjacent portions of said rear frame section such  
5 that said rear flange sections are generally continuously adjacent  
6 said adjacent portions of said rear frame section.

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8       **5.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 1  
9 wherein each of said left and right side walls and said front wall  
10 include a plurality of intersecting generally horizontal and  
11 generally vertical ribs, said generally vertical ribs extending to  
12 adjacent the top edges of each of said left and right side walls  
13 and said front wall, said generally horizontal ribs on each of said  
14 left and right side walls extending to adjacent said front wall.

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16       **6.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 1  
17 further comprising a channel formed in said upper portions of said  
18 left and right side walls and said front wall, said channel adapted  
19 to receive said basket rim support wire extending circumferentially  
20 around and passing through said upper portions of said left and  
21 right side walls and said front wall within said channel in order  
22 to provide additional structural stability to said plastic basket.

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1       7. An improved plastic basket shopping cart comprising:

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3       a cart base frame having an upwardly extending center basket  
4               support strut, an upwardly extending rear frame section having  
5               handle means mounted thereon;

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7       at least three wheels rotatably mounted on said cart base frame;

8  
9       a plastic basket mounted on said cart base frame, said plastic  
10              basket including;

11  
12      a base wall, left and right side walls mounted on and extending  
13              upwards from said base wall and a front wall mounted on and  
14              extending upwards from said base wall and extending between  
15              and connecting forward portions of said left and right side  
16              walls;

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18      said upwardly extending center basket support strut engaging and  
19              supporting said base wall, said base wall further including a  
20              reinforced plate section operative to provide additional  
21              structural support for the connection of said center basket  
22              support strut thereto;

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24      each of said left and right side walls and said front wall having  
25              a plurality of wall openings extending through said left and  
26              right side walls and said front wall, said wall openings  
27              generally having a height greater than their width;

1 at least some of said wall openings on said left and right side  
2 walls and said front wall adjacent said base wall having  
3 approximately equal heights and widths for improved structural  
4 strength;

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6 each of said left and right side walls including generally cross-  
7 sectionally arcuate rear flange sections which extend outwards  
8 and rearwards therefrom, said rear flange sections each at  
9 least partially covering an adjacent portion of said rear  
10 frame section to substantially prevent items in said plastic  
11 basket from falling out of said plastic basket through a gap  
12 between said left and right side walls and said rear frame  
13 section; and

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15 a basket rim support wire extending circumferentially around and  
16 passing through upper portions of said left and right side  
17 walls and said front wall, the ends of said basket rim support  
18 wire connected to and mounted on said rear frame section  
19 adjacent an upper portion thereof for increasing the  
20 structural strength of said plastic basket on said rear frame  
21 section of said cart base frame.

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23       **8.**   The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 7  
24 further comprising a rear wall mounted on said rear frame section  
25 of said cart base.

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27       **9.**   The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 7  
28 wherein said generally cross-sectionally arcuate rear flange

1 sections have cross-sectional curvatures approximately equal to the  
2 curvature of said adjacent portions of said rear frame section such  
3 that said rear flange sections are generally continuously adjacent  
4 said adjacent portions of said rear frame section.

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6       **10.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 7  
7 wherein each of said left and right side walls and said front wall  
8 include a plurality of intersecting generally horizontal and  
9 generally vertical ribs, said generally vertical ribs extending to  
10 adjacent the top edges of each of said left and right side walls  
11 and said front wall, said generally horizontal ribs on each of said  
12 left and right side walls extending to adjacent said front wall.

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14       **11.** The improved plastic basket shopping cart of claim 7  
15 further comprising a channel formed in said upper portions of said  
16 left and right side walls and said front wall, said channel adapted  
17 to receive said basket rim support wire extending circumferentially  
18 around and passing through said upper portions of said left and  
19 right side walls and said front wall within said channel in order  
20 to provide additional structural stability to said plastic basket.

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